



NJDOT TRAFFIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:
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Long Beach Boulevard and 8th Street closures tonight for paving work in Ship Bottom, Ocean County 8th Street traffic to be shifted onto newly constructed left side of the road

(Trenton) – Long Beach Boulevard is scheduled to be closed for three hours tonight to repave the roadway as the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project prepares for the summer hiatus in Ship Bottom, Ocean County. In addition, Route 72 westbound/8th Street is scheduled to have lane closures tonight to shift traffic.

From 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. tonight, Thursday, May 16, Long Beach Boulevard is scheduled to be closed and detoured to repave the road between 8th Street and 10th Street. In addition, 8th Street is scheduled to be closed between Long Beach Boulevard and Central Avenue during the same time. New Jersey State Police will be on site to assist with the detour. The following detours will be in place:

Long Beach Boulevard northbound Detour:

- Motorists on Long Beach Boulevard northbound will be directed to turn left onto 10th Street, which is before 8th Street
- Turn right onto Barnegat Avenue
- Turn left onto 8th Street

Long Beach Boulevard southbound Detour:

- Motorists on Long Beach Boulevard southbound will be directed to turn right onto 7th Street
- Turn left onto Barnegat Avenue
- Turn right onto 8th Street

In addition, beginning at 9 p.m. tonight, Thursday, May 16 until 8 a.m. Friday, May 17, Route 72 westbound/8th Street is scheduled to have temporary lane closures between Barnegat Avenue and Shore Avenue to restripe the roadway. By 8 a.m. Friday, May 17, 8th Street traffic will be shifted to the left onto the newly constructed portion of the roadway with two lanes and a right shoulder. If work is completed early, all lanes will be open sooner. The access road and driveways will be maintained overnight. Once the traffic shift is complete, the majority of work on 8th Street will stop for the summer. In September, work will resume on the right side of 8th Street to install drainage, make curb repairs, and repave the roadway.

Overnight work will continue on 9th Street, Monday through Thursday nights from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next day through late June to complete final masonry work and adjustments to the drainage system. Work will be done in sections and at least two lanes will be maintained. No work will be done on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. This minor work may take place on other streets throughout the project, including on 8th Street and some side streets.

In Stafford, work will continue behind construction barrier for a few weeks after Memorial Day near the Marsha Drive intersection. The work will not affect traffic and all lanes will be maintained in both directions. Once this work in Stafford and Ship Bottom is completed, the project will pause for the summer with work resuming after Labor Day.

This final construction contract for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project is designed to improve safety and reduce congestion in Stafford at the Marsha Drive/Route 72 intersection and in Ship Bottom on Long Beach Island. In Stafford, Marsha Drive will be widened to provide double left turn lanes onto Route 72, and a third lane will be added on Route 72 in both directions near the intersection.

In Ship Bottom, approximately 3,000 feet of Route 72 (locally known as 8th and 9th Streets) and three cross roads (Barnegat Avenue, Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard) will be widened. Two-way traffic will be restored along Central Avenue and Long Beach Boulevard. Five traffic signals will be reconstructed, and a new traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of 8th Street and Long Beach Boulevard. In addition, a new storm drainage system and new outfalls will be installed in an effort to reduce frequent flooding along Route 72 and these intersections. For more information NJDOT developed a [project-specific website](#).

The precise timing of the work is subject to change due to weather or other factors. Motorists are encouraged to check NJDOT's traffic information website www.511nj.org for construction updates and real-time travel information. For NJDOT news follow us on X (Twitter) [@NewJerseyDOT](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

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